

## Radio System Interoperability Committee

Meeting Notes – October 22, 2002

Skip Thomas opened the meeting with an opportunity for public comment. None was offered.

The committee then turned to a discussion of the proposed handheld radio specifications. Frank Aiudi suggested that all “will’s” be changed to “shall” where it was intended that the item be mandatory. Capt. Scott Martin suggested changing the engraving to read:

**CT – DPS  
ITAC  
Unit # XXXX  
1-800-842-0200**

The telephone number is that of the Connecticut State Police message center, manned 24 hours every day. This will be useful in case the radio is ever lost, or some one forgets how to use the system. Capt. Martin said that specific radios should not be proprietary to a particular municipality. Jack Bates stated that the technical specifications workgroup did not intend that. If a radio is turned in for repair, it will be replaced from the spare radio group, and if repaired, put into the spare group. The municipality will keep the replacement radio.

Chief Michael Varney suggested that each piece of equipment be made a separate item, so they can be purchased separately. This is a formatting issue. Skip Thomas asked Mike Stemmler to do this when the specification is sent to DOIT.

The discussion then turned to funding and the number of radios to be purchased. Skip Thomas said that OPM has \$500,000 in Byrne grant *local use* funds available, and would like to limit its participation to that amount, but can also contribute up to \$100,000 in Byrne *state use* funds, if necessary. Chuck Beck said that OEM has approximately \$180,000 available for radios, since it had planned to buy radios for certain municipalities before this plan was adopted. Gordon Shand said that there are 121 EMS organizations that should get radios. He has a list. At an emergency site, EMS personnel would have their own staging area, and would need their own means of communicating with the incident command.

Jack Bates said that ideally 532 radios would be purchased: 91 organized police departments, 305 fire districts, 121 EMS organizations, and 15 spares for repair purposes.

The next issue was licensing. Mike Stemmler said that State Police are licensed for 3,515 radios now, which will easily handle the mutual aid radios. Additional radios can be added to the license if needed.

George Pohorilak said that the training group would meet right after this meeting to discuss the training program. Skip Thomas said that chiefs, not low ranking personnel, should have to attend the training. Only they can enforce the rules for use of the radios in their departments. Chief Bill Chiarenzelli said he didn't think chiefs will actually hold the radios, so we shouldn't require chiefs to actually attend the training. Skip Thomas agreed we could allow substitutions to some level. Chuck Beck said he also thinks chiefs should attend the training, regardless of who actually uses the radio within a department.

Capt. Martin asked who would actually do the training. Skip Thomas said that a team of trainers from this committee would do it. The group is headed by George Pohorilak.

Gordon Shand provided an update on the desktop control stations for the CMED's. He still expects to meet their needs for mutual aid capability. Some of the CMED's are also PSAP's. He asked what the future was of this system? Could it replace the traffic system, RAFS, and other such networks? Chief Jakubson said he would like to eventually see a system that would allow the men on the street to talk to other jurisdictions when the need arises.

Skip Thomas asked for a timeline on purchasing the radios. Frank Aiudi said that DOIT can put it out to bid in one week, with four weeks for vendors to respond. Skip Thomas said that we would plan on early 2003 for training and distribution for the radios.

Mike Stemmler said that there is a need to contact all towns that have ICALL/ITAC capabilities now. He has been monitoring the frequencies, and violations of FCC rules are occurring. For example, someone has been using a repeater on ITAC 3 for non-mutual aid purposes. He suggests that this committee call a meeting of all licensees on ICALL/ITAC, and try to obtain everyone's cooperation. He thinks the problem is a lack of knowledge of the purposes and rules for these frequencies.

Skip Thomas agreed to try to put such a meeting together in December. George Pohorilak volunteered to handle this meeting. The next meeting of the Radio System Interoperability Committee will be coordinated with that meeting.